

What is AGOA?

African Growth and Opportunity Act

AGOA is a program that seeks to spur economic development and expedite the integration of African economies into the world trading system. AGOA expands duty-free access for more than 6,400 products to U.S. markets. AGOA also provides a framework for U.S. technical assistance to build trade capacity and to expand business links.

Africans are taking advantage of these benefits by diversifying their exports and enhancing their external competitiveness.

The AGOA Forum facilitates cooperation between governments, the private sector, and the civil society on both sides of the ocean.

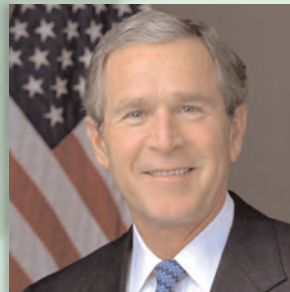
President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal has graciously offered to join the United States in co-hosting the 2005 AGOA Forum in Dakar, Senegal.



Marty Lederhandler, photographer
Associated Press

President George W. Bush at the signing of the AGOA Acceleration Act July 13, 2004

The African Growth and Opportunity Act has shown the power of free markets to improve the lives of people in both the United States and Africa. By reducing barriers to trade, this law has increased exports, created jobs, and expanded opportunity for Africans and Americans alike.



Associated Press/The White House
Eric Draper, photographer



West Africa Trade Hub, Vanessa Adams, photographer

Working Together

Government-to-Government

The AGOA ministerial provides a framework for ministers from all AGOA-eligible countries and the United States to discuss how to promote mutually beneficial trade and economic development.

Private Sector

The AGOA Private Sector Forum is dedicated to turning the promise of AGOA into reality by helping participating companies and entrepreneurs find new markets, new partners, and increased profits.

Civil Society

The AGOA Civil Society Forum empowers Africans and Americans through their non-governmental organizations (e.g. nonprofit organizations, chambers of commerce, and other groups) to work with governments and businesses to take maximum advantage of AGOA benefits.

For Success

Reaping the Benefits

- In 2004, AGOA imports* to the United States totaled \$26.6 billion, up 88% over 2003.
 - Non-oil AGOA imports* to the United States totaled \$3.5 billion in 2004, up 22% over 2003.
- * includes imports under the Generalized System of Preferences*



West Africa Trade Hub,
Vanessa Adams, photographer

Tjina Nkando Baskets, Botswana

AGOA increased my sales by almost 50%...My baskets are now for sale in the Smithsonian (U.S. National Museum in Washington D.C.).

Chigedge Chinyepi
Recipient of USAID
Trade Hub Assistance



West Africa Trade Hub,
Vanessa Adams, photographer



Courtesy of Computers for Africa



USAID, R. Zurba, photographer